

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A light grid for ~~the detection of~~ detecting objects in a monitoring region having a transmitter unit comprising a plurality of light transmitters and a receiver unit comprising a plurality of light receivers, ~~in which~~ respective pairs of light transmitters and light receivers associated with one another and bounding the monitoring region ~~can be being~~ activated in succession in time in dependence on a synchronization signal transmitted between the transmitter unit and the receiver unit, characterized in that at least one light guide (20) is provided for the transmission of the synchronization signal.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A light grid in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the at least one light guide (20) is arranged outside the monitoring region (14).

Claim 3 (currently amended): A light grid in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the light guide (20) connects the first or last light transmitter (22) of the transmitter unit to the first or last light receiver (26) of the ~~transmitter and receiver units (12, 16)~~ comprising a plurality of light transmitters (22) or light receivers (26) unit respectively.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A light grid in accordance with claim 3, characterized in that the other light transmitter (22) ~~and~~ and light receiver (26) pairs ~~can be~~ are automatically activated in succession at defined time intervals after the transmission and reception of the synchronization signal.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A light grid in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that permitted object sizes and/or movements of an object (24) located in the monitoring region (14) ~~can be~~ is programmed into or learned by a control unit.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method for ~~the operation of~~ operating a light grid ~~for the detection of~~ to detect objects in a monitoring region, in which light signals are transmitted from a transmitter unit comprising a plurality of light transmitters to a receiver unit comprising a plurality of light receivers, with respective pairs of light transmitters and light receivers associated with one another and bounding the monitoring region being activated in succession in time in dependence on a synchronization signal transmitted between the transmitter unit and the receiver unit, characterized in that the synchronization signal is transmitted during operation from the transmitter unit (12) to the receiver unit (16) via changing pairs of light transmitters (22) and light receivers (26) associated with one another.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method in accordance with claim 6, characterized in that, when the transmission of the synchronization signal between a first pair of light transmitter (22) and light receiver (26) is interrupted or if such an interruption is due, a the transmission of the synchronization signal takes place between a second pair of light transmitter (22) and light receiver (26).

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method in accordance with claim 6, characterized in that ~~the~~ a first pair consists of the ~~respective~~ first or last light transmitter (22) of the transmitter unit (12) and the respective first or last light receiver (26) of the receiver unit (16); and/or in that ~~the~~ a second pair consists of the ~~respective~~ other last or first light transmitter (22) of the transmitter unit (12) and the other respective last or first light receiver (26) of the receiver unit (16).

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method in accordance with claim 6, characterized in that a switch or alarm signal is only emitted when a ~~pre-determined~~ predetermined minimum number of light receivers (26) adjacent to one another do not report any reception and an object (24) located in the monitoring region (14) thus exceeds a ~~pre-determined~~ predetermined minimum size.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method in accordance with claim 9, characterized in that an object (24) not exceeding the ~~pre-determined~~ predetermined minimum

size is also detected in the monitoring region (14); and in that a change of the pair of light transmitter (22) and light receiver (26) responsible for the transmission of the synchronization signal takes place in dependence on the a position and/or direction of movement of ~~such an~~ the object (24).

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method in accordance with claim 6, characterized in that the transmission of the synchronization signal takes place in dependence on a fixed or determined direction of object entry into the monitoring region (14) via a first or a second pair of light transmitter (22) and light receiver (26).

Claim 12 (currently amended): A light grid ~~for the detection of~~ detecting objects in a monitoring region having a transmitter unit comprising a plurality of light transmitters and a receiver unit comprising a plurality of light receivers in which respective pairs of light transmitters and light receivers associated with one another and bounding the monitoring region ~~can be~~ are activated in succession in time in dependence on a synchronization signal transmitted between the transmitter unit and the receiver unit, characterized in that a control unit (28) is provided for the transmission of the synchronization signal from the transmitter unit (12) to the receiver unit (16) via changing pairs of light transmitters (22) and light receivers (26) associated with one another.

Claim 13 (canceled)